

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st September 1877.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Bhárat Shramjibí " ... ..	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	" Rajshahye Sambád " ... ..	Rajshahye ...	.....	
3	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká " ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
4	" Banga Hitaishí " ... ..	Bhowanipore ...	.....	20th August 1877.
5	" Bishwa Dút " ... ..	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....	22nd ditto.
6	" Bishwa Suhrid " ... ..	Mymensingh ...	450	
7	" Bhárat Mihir " ... ..	Do. ...	658	23rd ditto.
8	" Bhárat Sangskárák " ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.
9	" Bengal Advertiser " ... ..	Do. ...	.....	
10	" Dacca Prakásh " ... ..	Dacca ...	400	
11	" Education Gazette " ... ..	Hooghly ...	1,168	23rd ditto.
12	" Moorshedabad Pratinidhi " ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	23rd ditto.
13	" Pratikár " ... ..	Do. ...	235	23rd ditto.
14	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká " ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	25th ditto.
15	" Sambád Bháskar " ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.
16	" Sulabha Samáchár " ... ..	Do ...	3,000	25th ditto.
17	" Sádharaní " ... ..	Chinsurah ...	516	19th ditto.
18	" Hindu Hitaishiní " ... ..	Dacca ...	300	25th ditto.
19	" Samáj Darpan " ... ..	Calcutta ...	460	
20	" Soma Prakásh " ... ..	Bhowanipore ...	700	27th ditto.
21	" Sahachar " ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	<b>BENGALI—(continued).</b> <b>Weekly—(continued).</b>			
22	"Hindu Ranjiká" ... ..	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	22nd August 1877.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ..	Kákinia, Rungpore	250	23rd ditto.
24	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ... .. <i>Daily.</i>	Burdwan ...	165	
25	"Sambád Prabhákar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	550	18th to 25th August.
26	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Do. ...	.....	25th to 29th ditto.
27	"Samáchar Chandriká" ... ..	Do. ...	.....	18th, 29th, and 30th August.
28	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ..	Do. ...	652	25th to 29th August.
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b> <b>Weekly.</b>			
29	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ... ..	Do. ...	2,217	23rd August.
30	"Howrah Hitakarí" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	26th ditto.
31	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	24th ditto.
32	"Burrisal Bártábaha" ... ..	Burrisal ...	300	
	<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>			
33	"Urdu Guide" ... .. <i>Urdu.</i> <i>Bi-monthly.</i>	Calcutta ...	400	25th ditto.
34	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár" ... .. <i>HINDI.</i> <i>Weekly.</i>	Mozufferpore ...	.....	
35	"Behár Bandhu" ... .. <i>PERSIAN.</i>	Bankipore, Patna...	509	29th ditto.
36	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..	Calcutta ...	250	17th and 24th August.



## INDIAN AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Jám Jahán-numá* learns that great religious excitement prevails among Mussalmáns of the frontier tribes on account of the Russo-Turkish war; and it is certain that a rebellion will occur there in consequence of the Russian war, as they have raised flags of victory of three colors—black, green and red, which they kissed.

JAM JAHANNUMA,  
August 17th, 1877.

2. The *Amir* of Cabul has impressed on the mind of the Governor of Herat that the Government of India are making fortifications and encampments in (*Qualát*) Khelat for the reception of its officers and troops, with a view to attack and conquer Afghánistán, and nothing else; so that the Turkomán soldiers have been ordered to Candahár. The Russian Governor of Táshkend wrote a letter to the *Amir* which has much pleased him, and a favourable reply is expected. In that letter the *Amir's* opinion as to the Indian Government was asked.

JAM JAHANNUMA.

3. Dâoud Khan, a Risaldâr and pensioner of the British Government, sent a letter to a friend of his in British territories, for which his feet were put in irons, and it is certain that he will be executed.

4. The *Jám Jahánnumá* states that a letter was lately written by the *Akhoond* of *Swát* to the *Amir* of *Cábul*, wherein the former advises the latter to court the alliance and friendship of England and discard Russia, whose envoy, full of mischief, he learns, has arrived and been well received in *Cábul*. In failure of this, and of a speedy reply, the *Akhoond* threatens, with the aid of his followers and disciples, to make a *jahád* against the *Amir*, as also to stir up the ruler of *Bajour* to invade Afghánistán. On perusing this harsh letter, the *Amir* was much agitated, attributing the misunderstanding to the *Akhoond's* infirmity and old age, as also to the misrepresentations of mischief-makers. He then resolved to lay the matter before a full council and communicate its deliberations to the *Akhoond*. In conformity with this, a *darbár* assembled on the 7th of last month, at which there were present *Habibtulláh Khán*, *Zakariá Khán*, *Hashmatullah Khán*, *Zulfiquár Khán*, and others, when sympathy was expressed for the Sultán, who was carrying on an unequal contest with Russia. In addition to this, the *Amir* intimated his desire to inform the *Akhoond* of *Swát* that the English were treating the Afghans in the same way as Russia was dealing with the Turks—that is, the English had begun to meddle in the internal affairs of Afghánistán, contrary to treaty and the stipulations previously made, and that, therefore, it had been determined that no British envoy should be admitted while the *Amir* lived; that the English, contrary to treaty, were forming encampments in the country with the aid of the Khán of Khelat, from which it was inferred that an invasion of *Cábul* and nothing else was intended. In consequence of this the *Amir* could repose no further confidence in, nor entertain any expectations of good from, the English. Further, England had, by the treaty of 1856, promised to aid Turkey, in case that power was engaged in war; and notwithstanding this, she has chosen at the present juncture to remain quite neutral, giving no aid to the Sultan, but preferring to keep aloof and watch the revolutions of the wheel of fortune, to see which way it turns, and then declare itself the friend of the victorious: so that England as well as Russia is despised.

JAM JAHANNUMA.

*Zakariá Khán* rose to give his reasons for declaring against Russia. He had heard from merchants and travellers that the Russians are treacherous and deceitful, despoiling the countries they conquer; and their behaviour, towards



Muhammadans especially, is tyrannical in the extreme. Moreover, Russia is now oppressing Turkey by going to war against her, on a mere pretext of delivering the Christians from the Moslem yoke; thereby disregarding the provisions of the treaty of 1856, by which it is bound. It is proper that the *Akhoond* of *Swát* should at this time lay aside all talk about the Russians, and try and endeavour to determine, as between the English and the Musalmáns, what expectations the latter may have of assistance from the former, in times of extremity like the present; and if the English promise to assist, why have they remained silent so long? The nobles, officers, and grandees of Cábul are well aware that the Amir is not at all anxious to enter into bonds of friendship with Russia, but only makes an outward show of it, with the view of setting it off against the English.

The *darbár* then broke up after it was resolved to send a letter to the above purport to the *Akhoond* of *Swát*, assuring him likewise that nothing would be done or undertaken contrary to his desires; but the *Amir* hoped that the *Akhoond* would in return give the English to understand that they must not meddle in any way in the affairs of Afghanistán, but rather do that which will tend to benefit that country.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
August 27th, 1877.

5. The following comments on the recent despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, on its policy regarding Khelat, are extracted from the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 27th August:—

Our readers will be enabled to see, from a perusal of the despatch, that the policy of the Government of India towards Khelat. Lord Northbrook had very nearly accomplished the task before he left the country. The policy which, with reference to Khelat, he inaugurated has been developed by his successor, Lord Lytton. In the results aimed at, the foreign policy of Lord Northbrook did not differ much from that of his illustrious predecessor, the Marquis of Dalhousie; the only difference observable is in the manner in which each sought to carry it out. The latter had an overweening pride, and considered himself superior to all the great men of his age. The natives he did not choose to regard even as men, and did what he pleased without opposition. The Court of Directors were glad that he had extended their territorial possessions. A superior writer, and gifted with remarkable powers of reasoning, he could establish his own views and opinions with considerable ease; and vanquish his opponents with his arguments. He was thus enabled to make wrong appear right. His specious logic not only blinded the European officers of the day, but, if we are to believe in his sincerity, obtained a mastery over him also. He thus fearlessly, and without any scruple, sought by degrees to annex all the Natives States to the British Empire. Not so Lord Northbrook; long experience, acquired in commercial business, had taught him habits of caution and deliberation, which checked, in some measure, his greed of foreign territory. Whether gaining wisdom from the example of Lord Dalhousie, or from a fear of opposition, the authorities are not now so desirous of annexation as formerly; and Lord Northbrook was not, therefore, eager to obtain direct possession of Khelat. But the meshes of diplomacy which he wove round the Khán are such that the latter will find it hard to extricate himself from them. British troops have established a permanent footing in Khelat; a railway and telegraph line are under construction, thus facilitating commerce and agricultural operations. Khelat doubtless shows signs of external prosperity in all respects. Both the Khán, his sardars, and his people are exceedingly satisfied. This is certainly a matter for rejoicing. But one solitary individual is sad and displeased, and that is the Amir of Cábul.



Possessed of political foresight, he does not evidently contemplate these events without apprehension. He doubtless perceives that so long as a sincere and noble minded person as Lord Lytton remains at the head of the Indian Administration, and such a friendly officer as Major Sandeman continues to be his Agent, there will be no interruption of this happy state; there will be a feeling of mutual friendship between the British Government and the Khán and his sardars. But things will take another turn the moment a man like Colonel Phayre is appointed to the Agency, and there will be raised such a fearful conflagration in Khelat as will destroy its independence and the friendly feelings which now exist. Neither the Khán nor his sardars will then be able to avoid the difficulty; while outsiders will look on confounded and applaud the British diplomacy, which, without shedding a drop of blood, or spending a single cartridge or a grain of powder, will have secured Khelat to the British throne. This apprehension of the Amir is not unreasonable. An ignorant and barbarous chief, proud of possessing the friendship of the British Government, is likely to give offence constantly. Complications may be easily created by an Agent not disposed to overlook faults; while there is no want of men ever ready to create a rupture. The weak are seldom treated with consideration, as history shows in hundreds of instances. The Khán and his sardars, not possessed of any political foresight, are pleased with their present temporal prosperity. Nor is this to be wondered at. It is always the case with those that cannot look beyond the present. The beast about to be slaughtered eats its food cheerfully.

We do not, however, view the policy of Government towards Khelat in the same light as the Amir. What could be a greater matter of gratification than that, through the efforts of the British Government, peace should be established in a State hitherto torn with internal dissensions, and that it should enjoy commercial and agricultural prosperity? But this feeling of gladness is attended with apprehension when we reflect that any moment, through some fault of the Khán, the British lion may be tempted to devour Khelat with everything in it. Hence we would ask Lord Lytton to withdraw British troops from this place and allow the Khán liberty of action. We do not ask that he should discontinue all connection with Khelat, as in that case it will relapse into its former state of anarchy, but to maintain friendly relations with the Khán and aid him with advice and mediation in case of any difficulty. Let him be asked to introduce the Indian Acts among his own people; and let the relation of the Khán to his sardars and subjects be defined by law. This will put a stop to all domestic strifes. We sincerely wish that the Government of India really acted as a friend towards its allies, who would doubtless gladly pay all the expenses of such mediation. It behoves Lord Lytton to reflect for a moment on the object for which troops have been sent to the Khán's territories. This is nothing else but to afford facilities to British commerce. We need not expatiate on the justice of a measure which seeks to promote self-interest at the expense of another's freedom. The consequences which are likely to follow from a permanent occupation of Khelat by British troops and their withdrawal from it are clear to everybody. The present Khán is a worthless and weak ruler, who considers it advantageous to have British troops in his territories; but should any of his successors happen to be a brave and energetic man, would he not regard this circumstance as a sign of subjection, and would he not seek to throw it off? Would not this probably lead to war? Why is the Amir of Cábul dissatisfied with the present state of things? Is it not because he has a stronger love of independence in him? The remark that



the withdrawal of the troops would occasion Government a loss of prestige with the Khán and his sardars, is really idle. Was not Major Sandeman respectfully received at Khelat when he went there first alone, without any escort? Was he not listened to with respect? What is there to show that it will be otherwise now? The Amir is dissatisfied because British troops are stationed in Khelat. Will not their withdrawal remove his apprehensions and wean him back to British alliance?

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 18th, 1877.

6. We take the following from an article in the *Samáchar Chandrika*, of the 18th August, headed the "New Bazar at Simla:"—While an adverse Providence has heaped misfortunes upon this ill-fated country the rulers daily show an increasing desire for luxury; while famine and pestilence are devastating the land, they are only anxious for their own comfort and happiness. Every day—nay, every moment—myriads of human beings die of diseases for want of medical treatment, and of starvation. To think of the deplorable condition of Madras sends a thrill of horror through the system; yet side by side with this scene of distress, the spectacle greets us of costly edifices, bazars, and ports erected for the comfort of the rulers at the expense of the people of India; thus exemplifying the Hindusthání adage that "the mind is careless as to a gift." When the Behar famine was at its height, a large sum of money was squandered in connection with the municipal market of Calcutta for the convenience of the European residents of the city. Now too, when there is a dire famine in Madras, a vast outlay has been sanctioned for a market in Simla. Is this an outcome of the civilization and Christianity of the rulers? Shall the people who pay for their comforts and luxuries themselves die of starvation for want of a handful of rice? This western civilization is really a strange thing!"

SADHARANI,  
August 19th, 1877.

7. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 19th August, headed "The Lieutenant-Governor and the Durbar at Belvedere":—"Mr. Eden's remarks, on the disloyal character of the Native Press, brought vividly to our recollection the words, in which Lord Lytton addressed the members of the deputation of the Native Press Association, who waited on His Excellency during the Imperial assemblage at Delhi. He recognized their position as the 'mouthpieces and the natural leaders' of the people, and the service they rendered to Government by their fearless statement of the grievances of natives. A comparison of the words of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor certainly provokes laughter. If the persons who now conduct native newspapers are really the nobodies, who are self-constituted authorities—if they are incompetent, and men of no learning or influence—why were they invited to the Imperial assemblage at Delhi and accorded a respectful reception? Mr. Eden may not be responsible for that which was done by the Viceroy; but why did he, if the native editors are all that he declared them to be, concern himself about them and their worthless writings, in such a splendid durbar and before such a brilliant gathering? Why this unseemly exhibition in a meeting convened for conferring honors? We have yet to learn that there is any greatness or heroism in showing gratuitous disrespect towards a number of persons absent from a durbar held to confer honors? Mr. Eden has now taught us a moral lesson.

Every one is possessed of self-respect; and hence we do not consider ourselves as belonging to that class of which His Honor regards or



declares us to be members. The world has not yet become so bad as to consign those who are inspired by a sense of duty to eternal degradation in society. As in all other matters, however, there are degrees of merit ; and it is noticeable that the superior native papers are not without influence in Bengali society. The fact cannot be concealed from one's own conscience. Mr. Eden would never have troubled himself about the vernacular papers if he really considered them void of influence. His Honor's recent action, therefore, has but confirmed the fitness of the Native Press for the high position, to which it was raised by the respect manifested during the Imperial assemblage.

"Let us now enquire whether the Bengali newspapers are really wanting in loyalty and do occasionally write sedition. We can affirm that all the native papers desire the continuance of the British rule ; and that they admire the virtues of the English nation. It is for this reason that they do not fail to point out the faults of Government, though they may sometimes be rather hypercritical as regards their shortcomings. In criticising any particular measure or any portion of the conduct of Government, we do indeed sometimes charge it with selfishness and despotism, but we do not know of any English paper that does not do the same. This English system of commenting on public measures we have learnt from Englishmen ; and our condition will be really miserable if, alarmed or feeling insulted by the result of their own doings, they should now abuse us as being seditious and disloyal.

8. We take the following from another article in the same paper, headed the "Condition of the Ryot." "I found

The condition of the native ryot.

them now as prosperous, as independent, and as

comfortable as the peasantry, I believe, of any country in the world : well fed, well clothed, free to enjoy the full benefit of their own labors, able to hold their own, and obtain prompt redress for any wrong." While reading this portion of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, we could not refrain from weeping. Oh ! what a place this earth would be if the greater portion of the tenantry might but enjoy so much comfort, happiness, and independence ! How earnestly may we long to visit the homes and the cultivated fields of such a body of men ! But the spectacle of a thousand healthy and stout peasant families living together in well-thatched huts with raised floors and clean yards, not trembling at the sight of a police constable, paying their rents unasked, able to read and write their own letters, repairing any breaches in the embankments, guarding their fields by means of subscriptions raised among themselves—such a spectacle we have never witnessed, nor ever shall, we fear. Neither in Bengal, nor in India, nor in any other country of the world has it been noticed. Almost everywhere men in power constantly seek to please others that are powerful. Not only Mr. Eden, but other Governors also are anxious to bestow honors on their Jatindras and Narendras ; and consequently the misfortunes of Kálí Kéora or Mukhtar Mundle seldom find a place in their thoughts. These great men sometimes describe the miserable as happy ; and those unlucky persons who, through some fault of their education, or from a shallow sentimentality, sympathize with the suffering many, are abused as liars and deceivers. One weeps to see such abuse of power ; and hence we, too, shed tears when we read Mr. Eden's words regarding the condition of the tenantry.

"We seem to see clearly before our eyes the circumstances which have led His Honor to make this estimate of the prosperity of the ryots. Whatever

SADHARANI,  
August 19th, 1877.



is written in the native papers is false, for the editors thereof are illiterate and ungrateful. Now, most of the native papers write chiefly on the following topics: viz., (1) the oppressions of the Kirkwood class; (2) the oppressions of the police; (3) the oppressions of the zemindars; and (4) the misery of the ryots. All these are false, as is proved (1) by the fact that if Mr. Kirkwood had been given to oppression, why should the Government have defended him publicly and otherwise, and even in the High Court? (2) had the police been given to oppression, why should Government have disbelieved the words of Baboo Rám Chandra Ghosál and stood in its defence? and (3) if the zemindars had been oppressors, why should Government have bestowed honors on men like Harish Chandra? and why should two zemindars have been murdered in Furreedpore and Midnapore respectively? (4) the ryots are happy, for the Lieutenant-Governor took much trouble to go to Burrisal, and thence to Dacca, where he held a Durbar, and has since returned to Calcutta. These proofs are incontrovertible. What if, when his yacht was coming from Dacca to Goalundo, multitudes of emaciated men, women, and children, almost naked and bowed down, lined the banks of the river, where also were grazing herds of lean kine. These are all fabrications of the native papers, which, however, cannot impose on His Honor; for he has said that the peasantry of no other country in the world are so well off as that of Bengal. How long will the world last if power is abused in this way?

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,  
August 20th, 1877.

9. We take the following from an editorial in the *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 20th August, headed the "Lieutenant-Governor and the Native Newspapers." Mr. Eden

Native Press not disloyal.

has attacked the whole body of editors of native papers, and has given expression to the opinion which, from his long experience of Bengal, he had formed regarding them. We are sorry and grieved at this, but not surprised. The present is decidedly a time for attacks. Ever since the Fuller Minute was penned, the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have been persistently attacked; the new law member, Mr. Stokes, attacked them in his speech. The "respectable and loyal Bengalis," to whom Mr. Eden appealed to purge the native press of all its impurities, these very "respectable and loyal Bengali Maharajahs, Rajahs, and Rai Bahadoors" were themselves severely snubbed when they approached His Honor and Lord Lytton with memorials against the Public Works Cess Act. The able and educated and elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, many of whom were present at the Durbar at Belvedere, received handsome compliments at the hands of Mr. Eden. We do not, therefore, wonder that we should have been subjected to like treatment; it is the time for attacks, which are periodical.

"We regret that his charge should have been so universal, the good and bad mixed up together. While Bengalis have been praised for their loyalty, the native editors, numbering more than fifty, have been blamed for being disloyal. This is passing strange! The *Prabhákar*, after a successful career of fifty years, has now had conferred upon it the title of 'seditious and disloyal'! But are all vernacular newspapers disloyal? Of course they are, since the ruler of Bengal has chosen to call them so. But the question is, if they are so, why has not Government, which has enacted hundreds of Sedition Acts, blown them away from the cannon's mouth? Does this leniency arise from compassion? Yet what compassion should be shown to a rebel? Shall we, for exposing the faults of the wicked, proclaiming the good name of the virtuous, wishing well to patriots, and giving publicity to cases of oppression, to keep up the dignity of a free press, be called



disloyal? It is really to be wondered at, that, while the editors of Anglo-Indian papers—even he of the independent and plain-spoken *Statesman*—are not disloyal, native editors alone should be considered so; yet all of them write pretty nearly in the same style. It may be, that the fact of their writing in English, while we write in Bengali, accounts for all the difference; or it may be, that a long residence in Bengal has so far acclimatized Mr. Eden to this country that he understands Bengali better than English, and his conclusion is that native papers are disloyal. We do allow that there have been instances in which publicists have occasionally betrayed an unwarranted excess of tone and style, but even these have now sobered down into moderation. What statesman will consider the whole of the native press disloyal for the faults of a portion? Certainly such language does not become the lips of the wise Governor of Bengal. If the Rajahs and Rai Bahadoors to whom his speech was addressed had been severally asked to give their opinions as to the character of the native press, His Honor would have detected his own error. How could those be disloyal who, waiving all considerations of gain, have daily taxed their brains in earnestly seeking the good of their country and people? As to Mr. Eden's remark regarding the worthlessness of the papers and the ignorance of the editors, it may be questioned if they bear anything of the character His Honor has attributed to them. How is it that they have flourished for the last fifty years? How have they been enabled to maintain their position during this long period? Since, according to the Lieutenant-Governor, the people are loyal, how is it that thousands in Bengal, Behar, Orissa, the North-West and the Punjab, and other provinces, have daily bought these ignorant and worthless prints? If absolutely no one believed in them, how have they been enabled to exist so long? Newspapers are started almost every month. A little enquiry and calm reflection will show His Honor that, the progress which the Bengalis have hitherto made has been due, not solely to English education and clerkships, but, in a very large measure, to these untrustworthy native papers. That, during a long residence in this country, he should have derived no direct benefit from them is exceedingly to be regretted. His Honor asks the 'educated natives' to undertake the conduct of native papers. But whom does he mean?—the graduates of the University, or those that have no titles? If the former, he ought to know that not a few of the native editors are M. As and B. Ls of the Calcutta University. To prove the untruthfulness of the native papers, Mr. Eden has brought upon the stage the peasantry of Bengal. According to him, their condition has materially changed for the better during the period which has elapsed since he came out as an Assistant Magistrate to this country. They 'are now well fed, well clothed, and as happy as the peasantry of any other country in the world.' We should be happy to know that this was a correct description. But does Mr. Eden now really see the Bengal peasantry living in two-storied brick buildings instead of thatched huts? Do they not really any longer borrow of the mahajuns at 200 per cent. interest? Have they really ceased to drive the plough? Are they really as prosperous as the peasantry of Europe? Never. Who will believe that the peasantry are happy, when, on the first approach of famine, they have to dispose of their cattle and ploughs and repair to a relief station, whose homesteads are sold to satisfy the demands of the mahajun, who have to pass sleepless nights, not knowing wherewith to pay their rents? In many cases now, they do, indeed, obtain justice against the oppressions of their landlords; but their condition remains much the same as before, with this aggravating circumstance, however, that



the high prices which rule at the present day have increased their difficulties. Mr. Eden charges native papers with ingratitude to the officers who 'work day and night for the good of the people.' This shows that His Honor knows but little about these papers. Did he regularly read them, he would find much eulogistic writing in their correspondence columns regarding the work done by the liberal-minded British officials. But how few are there of such as really lead lives of self-sacrifice and devotion to their work? Mr. Eden says that 'if ever, unfortunately, any small fault or arbitrary act on the part of an official comes to light, I find it made the theme of general denunciation for months together, and the most exaggerated and untrue accounts given of what has occurred.' His Honor was far away in Burmah when Messrs. D'Oyly, Damant, Moseley, Worsley, Herschel, Harrison, Pellew, Clay, and other worthies belonging to the firm of Messrs. Kirkwood and Company harassed Bengal. He could not have made the remark he did, if he had seen a spark of the conflagration produced by these officers, which called forth loud protests equally from vernacular and Anglo-Indian papers. If it is sedition to expose oppressions and ask redress of Government, what is the use of newspapers at all?

We do not understand why Mr. Eden should, if he really considers vernacular papers disloyal, ask a number of respectable Bengalis to remove this stigma on the native press, instead of seeking the aid of law. If these persons have no connection with it, how can they be expected to exert any influence on the editors? The fact is that His Honor has fallen into an error. Either he does not know anything about the vernacular papers, or, acting according to some improper counsel, he has expressed this curious opinion respecting them. The native newspapers are impartial critics, while the Government of the country is a despotism: and so it is utterly impossible that there should be any agreement of views between the two. We can assure His Honor that they prize justice and do not abuse their liberty. An enquiry will satisfy him that, if any body of men desire the permanency of the British rule in India, the editors of native papers do so preeminently.

*SAHACHAR,*  
August 20th, 1877.

10. The *Sahachar* of the 20th August, writes the following on the same subject:—Mr. Eden concluded his Durbar speech with some unjust strictures on the loyalty of the vernacular press, which we feel called upon to refute with regret, as His Honor is truly a friend of Bengal, and possesses greater acquaintance with the country than any of his predecessors in office. We would not have noticed these remarks had they been made by anybody else; but it is necessary that endeavours should be made to disabuse His Honor's mind of the wrong impressions cherished on the subject.

First, the gentlemen present in the Durbar were insulted by the observations made by the Lieutenant-Governor. Whatever might be the faults of the press, with a single exception, none of them have any connection with native papers, and cannot therefore be held responsible for the shortcomings of the editors. We do not know whether the native gentlemen present at the Durbar agree with the views of the Lieutenant-Governor; but it is certain that almost all of them read the vernacular papers, and have never expressed similar opinions—nay, some of them rather applaud the spirit in which they are written. This clearly shows that they are not of the same mind with the Lieutenant-Governor or the *Statesman*. How can they be expected to carry out his orders contrary to their own judgment?—for, asking Mr. Eden's



pardon, his request was but an order in disguise. It is true that we recognize Maharajah Jatindra Mohan Tagore and Rajah Narendra Krishna, and some others, as the mouthpieces and the natural leaders of native society, and would meekly submit to their guidance should they seek to dissuade us from a wrong act; but we shall never heed them, if they seek to make us desist from any course of action which we do not believe to be wrong. Mr. Eden would be grievously mistaken if he thought that these influential men can do as they please with the editors. These are mostly really respectable men of learning and independent views. There are here, as in England, exceptions, and Government may proceed against them according to law; while it is most improper and impolitic to seek to check them through a private agency. This only shows the weakness and the incompetency of Government. The occasion was also most unsuitable. The editor promises to continue the article in his next issue.

11. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the courtesy and professional ability of Assistant Surgeon Annadá Charn Kástagiri, in charge of the North Suburban Hospital; and complains that Kási-pore and adjacent suburban towns are infested by a large number of quack doctors whose treatment accelerates death. Government should enact some special law to prohibit their practice.

SAHAGHAR,  
August 20th, 1877.

12. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 20th August, earnestly exhorts His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to call for the papers in the case of Jogendra Nath Neogy, who in a fit of insanity murdered his grandmother. The man has ever since been insane, as has been shown by the medical evidence adduced. He pleaded guilty to the charge of murder against the advice of his friends and counsel, and has been sentenced to transportation for life by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Markby. His case deserves mercy at the hands of His Honor.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,  
August 20th, 1877.

13. In an article on the subject of the Native Press and the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks thereon, the *Bhárat Sangskarak*, of the 20th August, makes the same remarks as those noticed in paragraph 7 of this report.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
August 20th, 1877.

14. In an article on the Native Press, the *Banga Hitaishí*, of the 20th August, takes up very nearly the same ground as the *Soma Prakásh* of the same date, noticed in paragraph 16 of our last report. It is contended that the free ventilation of their grievances by the native papers is far preferable to a sullen brooding over them in silence; and that though their writings are often exaggerated, they have generally substantial grievances which call forth strong expressions. Under these circumstances, does it not behove Government to seek to remove their complaints instead of harping upon the manner in which they are preferred? The party that commits a fault is certainly more to blame than he who exposes it.

BANGA HITAIISHI,  
August 20th, 1877.

15. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 22nd August, dwells on the importance of allotting such labor to the prisoners in jail as is suited to their position in life, and which may prove useful to them when the period of their confinement is over. The number of cases of theft and robbery will considerably diminish if this be done; for there will be no temptation to

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
August 22nd, 1877.



crime if the prisoners, when released, are able by honest labor to earn a livelihood.

BISHWA DUT,  
August 22nd, 1877.

16. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 22nd August, agrees with the *Soma Prakásh* and the *Grāmbártá Prakáshiká* in maintaining that there should be an Indian Parliament, and that one of Her Majesty's sons ought to be permanently appointed to the Viceroyalty.

An Indian Parliament, and a permanent Viceroy.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 23rd, 1877.

17. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 23rd August, makes the same remarks on the loyalty of the Native Press as those notice in paragraph 10 of this report.

Native Press.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 23rd, 1877.

18. On the same subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 23rd August, makes the following observations:—

Native Press not disloyal.

We are sorry that Mr. Eden has used insulting language towards the native editors; we are more sorry that he has called them disloyal and ungrateful. We scarcely understand what is meant by seditious writing. If it means an attempt to subvert the British Government in India, certainly the native editors are guiltless; nor, until they forget the interests of the country and lose all common sense, do we think they ever will be guilty of such a crime: but if it means weeping for injuries inflicted on the people by the officers of Government, we admit the charge. If it means a protest made against a public measure in good faith, or earnest appeals for the infliction of legal punishments on high-handed Europeans, they plead guilty. There are two ways in which the interests of the British Government in India may be injured: (1) by taking up arms against it; and (2) by seeking, by means of persuasion, to shake the allegiance which the people owe to it. To the newspapers the first is not practicable. If they have ever been guilty of the second, it has never been intentional on their part, but was due to some shortcoming on the part of Government. We admit that, occasionally, the native editors misrepresent the acts of Government; but they have always rectified their errors whenever the authorities chose to point them out. Then, as to seeking to produce disaffection towards the Government in the minds of the people, if the native papers are guilty in this respect, the rulers are a thousandfold more so; Mr. Cowan by slaughtering some 50 innocent men; Lord Mayo by strengthening the penal clauses of the Criminal Procedure Code; Sir George Campbell by enhancing the rigors of the jail, and injuring the interests of high education; Lord Northbrook by dethroning Mulhar Rao, Guicowar; Lord Lytton by his inattention to the famine in Madras and Bombay; Sir Richard Temple by failing to punish the high-handed Magistrates; Mr. Eden by up-rooting the permanent settlement; the Judges of the criminal courts by permitting European murderers to escape unpunished, on the plea that their victims had diseased spleens; and the tea and indigo planters by committing oppressions. The writings of the Native Press have not done the interests of Government a thousandth part the injury which these have effected. No Bengali paper intentionally writes sedition. The language perhaps, which is still in its infancy, may be responsible for much excess of tone; but this may also be occasionally due to mistranslations in the weekly report. Yet the writings in the Native Press are not a thousandth part so strong as the articles which occasionally appear in the columns of the *Statesman*, *Englishman*, *Daily News*, or *Vanity Fair*. If Mr. Eden is resolved to suppress the injury done to Government by newspapers, let him first stop the importation of books and papers from America and England, and then the



publication of the Anglo-Indian journals. Considering that the native papers have all along been loud in the praise of Mr. Eden, it seems strange that His Honor should have blamed them for being ungrateful.

19. On the same subject, the *Education Gazette*, of the 24th August, writes the following:—Many probably are of opinion that Mr. Eden's remarks regarding the

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
August 24th, 1877.

Native Press.

native newspapers were not suited either to the occasion or the persons to whom they were addressed. We, however, do not think so. It is clear that Government rewards loyalty by conferring honors and titles of distinction; and it is well known that natives of Bengal are loyal to the British Government, and their attachment to the rulers has never been questioned. Mr. Eden has maintained this many times both in England and India. But all have not had equal opportunities of judging of the hearts of the people; and consequently there have not been wanting persons who, from observing the tone of the native papers, have come to the conclusion that Bengalis are not well affected towards the British Government. Mr. Eden has had to refute their error. His Honor is no doubt anxious to see an end of such charges brought against the natives and the frequent necessity of answering them. From our experience of his official conduct, and a conviction that he truly wishes them well, we cannot for a moment entertain the idea that he dislikes the exposure in the newspapers of the faults of Government officers. He is only displeased that some newspapers should vilify the whole body of public officers for the faults of an individual. But, properly considered, the native papers are not much to blame for this. Every new undertaking, in which the natives are now seen to engage, is in imitation of Englishmen. Bengali periodicals and their style of writing are the products of this influence. Just as the Anglo-Indian papers abuse the natives where they detect the fault of an individual, so the native papers do but imitate them when they notice any shortcoming of a European. The Anglo-Indian papers adopt the same style of writing towards Government. Are there not many who ordinarily oppose their measures? It is not to be wondered at, that native papers should closely imitate them in this respect. It is therefore the duty of the vernacular prints to give up this habit of imitation, and fearlessly to express their views in a confiding spirit. The country will be considerably benefited if this is done.

20. The same paper dwells on the virtues of Sir W. Herschel, the Magistrate of Hooghly, and gives an account of a meeting held in that place to perpetuate his memory when he leaves India.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

The virtues of Sir W. Herschel.

21. As the Lieutenant-Governor is expected to visit Berhampore in the course of his present tour, the *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 24th August, asks His Honor to re-establish a sub-division at Kandi.

A sub-division should be re-established at Kandi.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
August 24th, 1877.

Its abolition was a most injudicious measure, resulting as it has done in a large increase in the number of crimes in Bhurtpore, Gokarna, and Khargram thanas. Mr. Mackenzie also wrote in favor of this proposal when he was Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

22. On the subject of the Native Press, the *Moorshedabad Patriká*, and the *Pratikár* of the 24th, and the *Sulabha Samáchar* and *Hindu Hitaishini* of the 25th

Native Press.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
PRATIKAR,  
SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
HINDU HITASHINI.

August, express the same views as those recorded in paragraph 9 of this report.



BEHAR BANDHU,  
August 29th, 1877.

23. The *Behár Bandhu*, in noticing the recent speech of the Lieutenant-Governor at the Durbar, remarks, that His Honor gave utterance to two or three very harsh expressions against the native papers, which he described as being seditious and ungrateful. The editor then goes on to show that the poor and feeble generally suffer most. The English papers write more strongly, and nothing is said to them. On the contrary, they are considered extremely loyal. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Eden, who has been spoken so highly of, should have allowed such unprofitable thoughts to occupy a place in his bosom. Loyalty does not consist in keeping silent, or not venturing an opinion on the acts of the existing Government; or, instead of showing up the evil deeds of the mofussil authorities, condescending to flatter them always. Doubtless good actions should be applauded, and this has been done; though it seems Mr. Eden is not aware of it, because he does not himself read the native newspapers. It may be that his charges against the native press have resulted from his having given a willing ear to the representations of his civilian friends. England has a press too, which does not spare the use of harsh expressions towards Lords and Commons or the Cabinet Ministers; for this, it is not taunted with disloyalty. How, then, can we, who walk in fear and dread, and do not venture to meddle with weighty matters, be considered disloyal; and why are we made to bear this oppression? Mr. Eden has fallen into great error in his remarks on the want of cordiality between rulers and subjects; the best reason for this is to be found in the haughty and overbearing disposition of English civilians. These are the men who both here and in England cast blame on the natives. Mr. Eden has kicked the natives; but he should now chastise those Englishmen, whose faults he has in a manner admitted in another part of his speech. The article concludes with extracts from the remarks of Sir George Campbell, Sir Richard Temple, and Lord Lytton; showing that Mr. Eden's opinion is at variance with the observations of those competent and high authorities.

The Editor adds the following brief remark:—When the opinions of *Sáhibs* like the above are in our favour, then what have we to fear?

#### LOCAL GRIEVANCES.

SAMBÁD BHÁSKAR,  
August 20th, 1877.

24. A correspondent of the *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 20th August, writing from Nárná, complains that although road cess is levied in the Howrah district, tolls are also demanded on the road leading from Salikhá to Benares, at a place called Devipará. Government is asked to discontinue the practice.

#### FAMINE.

SADHARANI,  
August 19th, 1877.

25. We take the following from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 19th August, headed "Famine in Southern India":—While a telegram from India has led the Lord Mayor of London to convene a meeting for the purpose of raising subscriptions in aid of the famine-stricken, the citizens of Calcutta, grieved at the untimely death of Rajah Ramánath Tagore, are either busy in organizing a meeting to perpetuate "his memory in honor of his disinterested devotion to the good of his country," or in unveiling a statue of Dr. Duff; thus shewing the progress the high-minded Bengali has made. And not only high-minded, but resolute, for no other people can come up to the Bengalis in resoluteness. For some years past, they have resolved

A meeting should be called to raise subscriptions in aid of the famine-stricken in Madras.



not to set about anything unless a European has first taken part in it. Who is there that can shake their resolution? For years together Dr. Mahendra Lál Sarkár had advertized for subscriptions to his Science Association; but no one heeded him, until Sir Richard Temple extended his patronage to it. Everything was then settled and the business of the Association commenced. The same has been the case with the institution established by the Indian League. In one day, under the Presidency of Sir Richard Temple, not less than a lakh and twenty-two thousand rupees were subscribed; but matters changed with the departure of that personage. A large amount of subscriptions would be forthcoming, if some high official could only be induced to attend to the matter. A Zoological Garden would be an accomplished fact in one day, if only the highest authority in the land called a meeting and presided over it. We would not move to give even a handful of rice to our brethren if the *sahibs* did not tell us to do so. Is there any other nation so resolute as the Bengalis?

If, then, we are firm in our resolve, why do not the Europeans move? What has come of the private meeting held in the house of the Chief Justice? If a meeting must be called, let it be called without further delay. Respect for free trade principles has been shown as far as practicable; the quantity of wheat and rice necessary for England has already been shipped; the requirements of the science of statistics have been met; the *Gazette* for the last two weeks has been filled with figures showing the stocks of rice in hand; and as to experiments which are so necessary to a science, they have also been made, heedless of the protestations of Dr. Cornish. What then remains but to call a meeting and ask for subscriptions? If, out of the two hundred millions of people, even half could be saved alive, would not the law as to the "equalization of supply and demand" be satisfied? Whether the purpose be to hear the eloquence of natives, to gauge the depth of their flattery, make some abstruse scientific experiment, or anything else, a meeting should be called. Let us see the people of one province of India helping their fellow-countrymen of another.

26. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 27th August, points out what he regards as blunders committed by Lord Lytton in reference to the present famine in Madras. They are the following:—(1) holding the Imperial assemblage at Delhi at a time when Madras was passing through the initiatory stage of a famine; (2) differing in sentiment from the liberal-minded Governor of Madras; (3) endeavouring unreasonably to curtail expenditure, as witness the mission of Sir Richard Temple to the scene of distress; (4) discouraging the collection of subscriptions in aid of the sufferers.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
August 27th, 1877.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 1st September 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.



